SUPERMAN
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NATIONAL COMICS
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NO. 127
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BAT MAN
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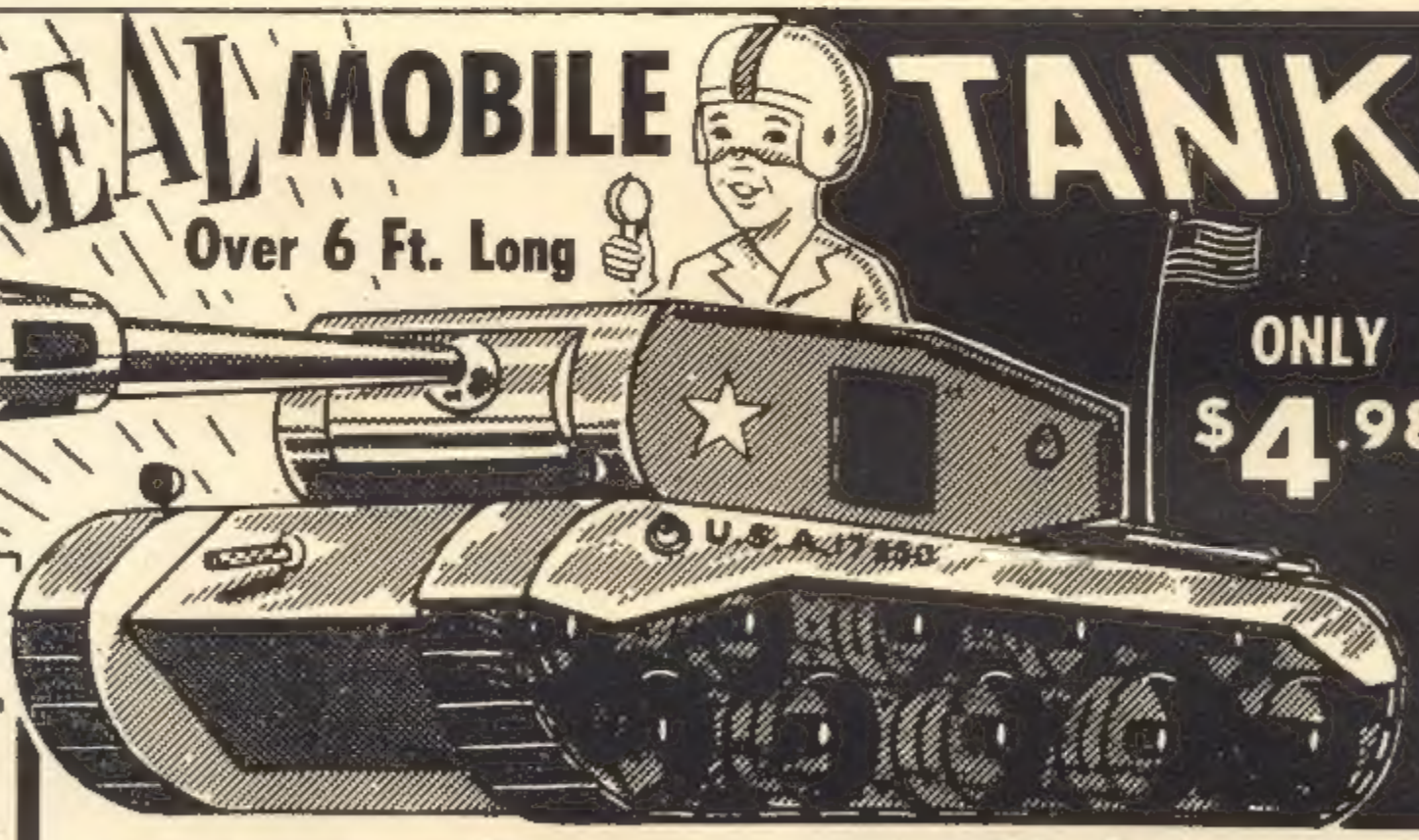

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BATMAN

With

ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, ARE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR ANY CRIMINAL ... BUT ARE THEY EQUAL TO THE EAGLE WHO TRIES TO HELP THEM? YOU'LL BE SURPRISED, AND EVEN MORE ASTONISHED, WHEN YOU LEARN THE IDENTITY OF THIS MASKED MYSTERY MAN WHO JOINS THEIR FAMOUS TEAM TO BECOME...

BATMAN'S SUPER-PARTNER

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Printed in U.S.A.

ONE DAY, IN GOTHAM CITY...

THIS BOOK FAIR IS A WONDERFUL IDEA! I'M GLAD WE CAN HELP GET YOUNG PEOPLE INTERESTED IN--

BATMAN... ROBIN... FOLLOW ME! THE PROCEEDS OF THE FAIR ARE BEING STOLEN!

Gotham BOOK FAIR! ADMISSION $1.00

BOOK FAIR

Today BATMAN and ROBIN STAR GUESTS!

THE JOKER IS LOOSE AGAIN-- IN THERE!

OUR OLD ENEMY! LET'S GET HIM, ROBIN!

NO SOONER DO THE TWO LEAP INTO THE ARMORED TRUCK, THAN...

YES, INDEED! THE JOKER IS LOOSE-- BUT THEY AREN'T, THANKS TO THIS RENTED ARMORED TRUCK AND PHONY COSTUMES! NOW, WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN OUT OF THE WAY, WE REALLY CAN ROB THE FAIR! LET'S GO--!

SNAPP!

MOMENTS LATER, A STRANGE, COSTUMED FIGURE APPEARS...

HELP!

LET US OUT!

WITH AMAZING STRENGTH, THE MASKED NEWCOMER WRENCHES OPEN THE DOORS, AND...

GREAT SCOTT! YOU SNAPPED THAT THICK STEEL WITH YOUR BARE HANDS! WHO ARE YOU?

RRRIP!

I MUST CONCEAL THE SECRET OF MY REAL IDENTITY, GENTLEMEN, BUT YOU MAY ADDRESS ME AS THE EAGLE!

WITH MY UNUSUAL POWERS, WE CAN BATTLE AGAINST CRIME SIDE BY SIDE, AND--WAIT! THOSE CRIES! BATMAN, ROBIN AND THE EAGLE ARE NEEDED!

HELP!

THE JOKER!

MOMENTS LATER, AS THREE CAPED FIGURES SPEED INTO THE FAIR...

TREASURE ISLAND

ADVENTURES of ROBIN HOOD

ADVENTURES of ROBIN hood

DOOR-WAY to LAUGHTER

BATMAN AND ROBIN! SO YOU MANAGED TO ESCAPE?...WELL, YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO SEE ME ESCAPE! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE LOSING YOURSELF IN A GOOD BOOK!

DOORWAY TO LAUGHTER

STAND BACK, FRIENDS! I'LL HANDLE THIS!

WITH ONE ASTOUNDING LEAP, THE EAGLE REACHES THE GIANT VOLUME, AND...

I'LL SHAKE THEM LOOSE!

IT'S NO USE, EAGLE!

THE JOKER MUST HAVE CUT AN OPENING IN THE BOTTOM OF THIS BOOK DUMMY AND PLACED IT OVER THIS MAN-HOLE LAST NIGHT! WE'LL NEVER GET HIM NOW! THERE ARE DOZENS OF PASSAGEWAYS DOWN THERE!

HMMM... TOO BAD... BUT...

...HE WON'T OUTWIT BATMAN, ROBIN AND THE EAGLE! WE'LL CATCH HIM YET! FAREWELL, TILL OUR NEXT MEETING!

WHO CAN HE BE?

HIS VOICE SOUNDS STRANGELY FAMILIAR, BUT I CAN'T PLACE IT!

LATER, WHEN THEY RETURN TO THE BAT-CAVE...

BATMAN! LOOK!

WHY, IT'S-- IT'S--

THE EAGLE! BUT FEAR NOT! I WILL NEVER REVEAL THAT I KNOW THE BAT-CAVE'S LOCATION, AND THAT YOU TWO ARE REALLY BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON!

B-BUT HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?

OBSERVE, GENTLEMEN! I AM--

ALFRED... OUR BUTLER!.. HOW DID YOU GET THOSE AMAZING POWERS, AND WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US BEFORE?

I COULDN'T RESIST A LITTLE JOKE... MEEK, MIDDLE-AGED ALFRED TRANSFORMED INTO A HERO WITH SUPER-STRENGTH! IT BEGAN WHEN I WAS DUSTING THAT MACHINE YOU HAD TAKEN FROM "DOC" CRANIUM, THE CRIMINAL GENIUS...

TROPHY ROOM

"I BECAME ENTANGLED IN ITS WIRES! STRUGGLING TO FREE MYSELF, I ACCIDENTALLY PUSHED SOME BUTTONS..."

GOOD GRACIOUS! THE RAY FROM THIS MACHINE IS STRIKING THE WEIRD SPACE CRYSTAL SUPERMAN BROUGHT BATMAN AS A TROPHY, AND IS REFLECTING BACK ON ME! IT...IT MAKES ME FEEL STRANGE!

NOW THAT I UNTANGLED THE WIRES, I COULD NEVER REPEAT THE INCIDENT...BUT I DON'T HAVE TO! I'M INVULNERABLE! I CAN LEAP HUNDREDS OF FEET AND LIFT A TON! YOU WILL ACCEPT ME AS A THIRD MEMBER OF YOUR TEAM, WON'T YOU?

WHY...ER...I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE!

LATER, WHEN THE THREE HAVE REVERTED TO THEIR EVERYDAY ROLES...

I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT ALFRED'S HELPING US, BRUCE!

SO AM I... BUT HE'S SO EAGER, I HAVEN'T THE HEART TO TURN HIM DOWN!

SO, NEXT MORNING, THREE COSTUMED FIGURES CRUISE GOTHAM CITY IN THE BATMOBILE...

WHAT'S OUR DESTINATION, BATMAN?

THE GOTHAM CITY GLOBE IS AWARDING $100,000 IN A PUBLIC CEREMONY TO THE MAN WHO SOLVED ITS NATION-WIDE CRYPTOGRAM PUZZLE-- JUST THE KIND OF PRIZE TO TEMPT THE JOKER!

SOON, OUTSIDE THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE...

MR. SEDGEWICK IS THE ONLY ONE OF THE MANY THOUSANDS OF CONTESTANTS WHO SOLVED OUR PUZZLE, SO...

NO SIGN OF THE JOKER AND HIS MEN HERE!

DE DI G SCAGE ELDZS EM
BZMO ELA TAGIMZ HMC
IAAPL C?P E? IAGIMZ
HMZ AZTAP

BUT BATMAN HAS HARDLY UTTERED THE WORDS THAN...

QUITE A CLEVER DISGUISE, EH? IT TOOK TIME PREPARING IT LAST NIGHT, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT! I'LL TAKE THAT PRIZE MONEY!

THE EAGLE WILL SNATCH THE JOKER! ONE MIGHTY LEAP, AND...

GOTHAM CITY

For A NET PROFIT, BUY GOVERNMENT BONDS

AS ALFRED, ALIAS THE EAGLE, CATAPULTS FORWARD...

KRASSH!

WHOOSH!

NEWS

I MISCALCULATED... JUMPED TOO HIGH AND FAR!

WHAMP!

I WAS AFRAID OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS! LET'S GO, ROBIN! WE'LL GET THE JOKER!

BUT THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE!

MOMENTS LATER...

LOOK! THE JOKER'S PALS ARE HELPING HIM MAKE A GETAWAY! QUICK, ROBIN! BAT-ROPES OVER THAT FLAGPOLE!

YOU KNOCK HIM OFF HIS PERCH, AND I'LL CATCH HIM!

AT THAT INSTANT...

THIS HUGE NET IS HEAVY, BUT IT'S LIGHT AS A FEATHER TO ME!

SNAP!

I'LL SCOOP THE JOKER OUT OF THE AIR WHEN HE PASSES NEAR ENOUGH!

OH, NO! IT... IT'S ALFRED! GULP! HELPING US AGAIN!

I GUESS I MADE A ...ER... SLIGHT MISCALCULATION... BUT NOTHING WILL STOP *THE EAGLE* NEXT TIME!

;WHEW; WHAT WILL WE ;GROAN; DO ABOUT HIM?

*NEXT DAY, STILL UNDAUNTED, **THE EAGLE** RIDES AGAIN WITH THE DYNAMIC DUO AS THEY RESPOND TO AN URGENT SUMMONS FROM THE **BAT-SIGNAL**...*

THE *JOKER* STRUCK AGAIN--THIS TIME AT THE MUSEUM OF EGYPTOLOGY!

*BUT AS THEY RACE UP TO THE MUSEUM IN TIME TO SEE THE **JOKER** DEPART WITH VALUABLE RELICS STOLEN FROM AN OUTDOOR EXHIBIT...*

WHAT? CAN'T SEE THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD...WE CAN NEVER OVERTAKE HIM, RUNNING!

SCREEE

LIGHTS OUT FOR YOU, *BATMAN!*

SECONDS LATER...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT BRONZE STATUE OF ANUBIS?

YOU'LL SOON SEE... AN AMAZING EXAMPLE OF SUPER-STRENGTH COUPLED WITH SUPER-INGENUITY!

THROUGH THE AIR HURTLES THE WEIRD FIGURE UNTIL...

THE TUNNEL'S BLOCKED! WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE OUR GETAWAY ON FOOT!

SCREECH

*AS THE **JOKER** AND HIS MEN SCRAMBLE OUT OF THEIR CAR, **THE EAGLE** LEAPS, SOARS...*

SCOUNDRELS! YOU ARE ABOUT TO CONFRONT *THE EAGLE*...

...AND LANDS!

...FACE TO FACE! TAKE THAT!

HA, HA! I HARDLY FELT IT!

TAP

NOW, MEET THE JOKER... FIST TO FACE!

WHAT A GROAN! TIME FOR HIM TO LOSE HIS POWERS! QUICK, ROBIN... INTO THOSE CHARIOTS!

WHAPP!

OWW!

CAREENING CRAZILY, THE TWO VEHICLES PLUNGE DOWNHILL...

NOW, ROBIN!

WITH PERFECT TIMING, THE DARING DUO EXECUTES BACKFLIPS...

THE CHARIOTS PROTECT US FROM THEIR SPEARS...

THESE ANCIENT SPEARS ARE STILL SHARP ENOUGH! GET THEM, MEN!

...AND DOWN THEM TEMPORARILY...

FOR PERMANENT DELIVERY TO THE POLICE!

THAT NIGHT, IN THE BAT-CAVE...

I GUESS I WAS PRETTY GOOD, AFTER ALL! A LITTLE MORE EXPERIENCE, AND I MIGHT HAVE SURPASSED YOU AND ROBIN!

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, ALFRED! LUCKY FOR US, YOU LOST YOUR POWERS!

GOTHAM GLOBE

MYSTERIOUS EAGLE'S QUICK MIND AND SUPER MUSCLES HELP BATMAN AND ROBIN TRAP JOKER

THE END

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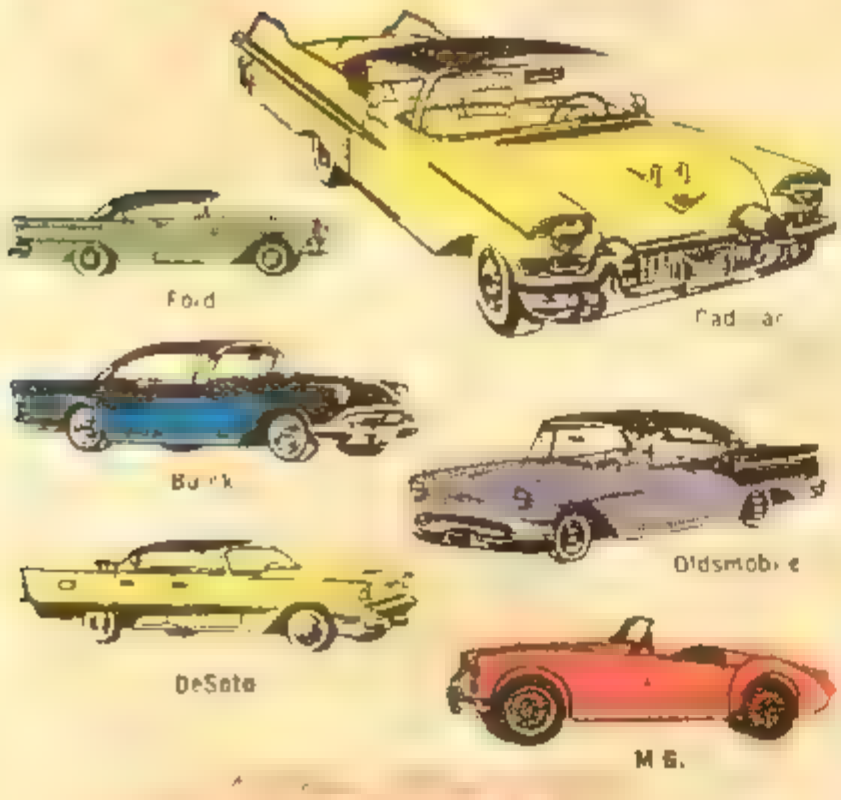

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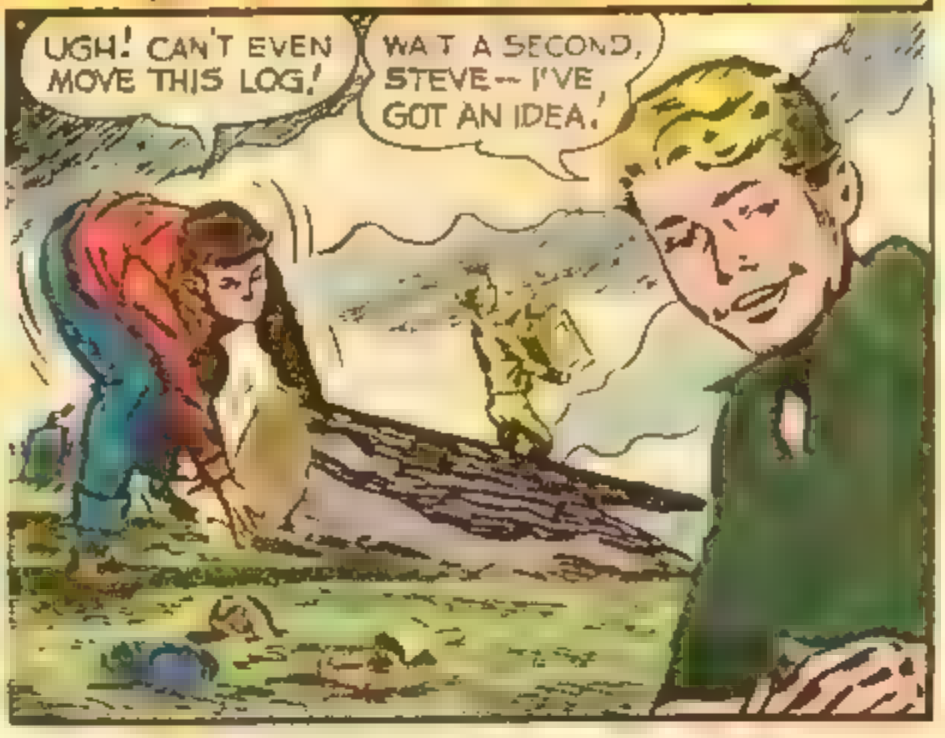
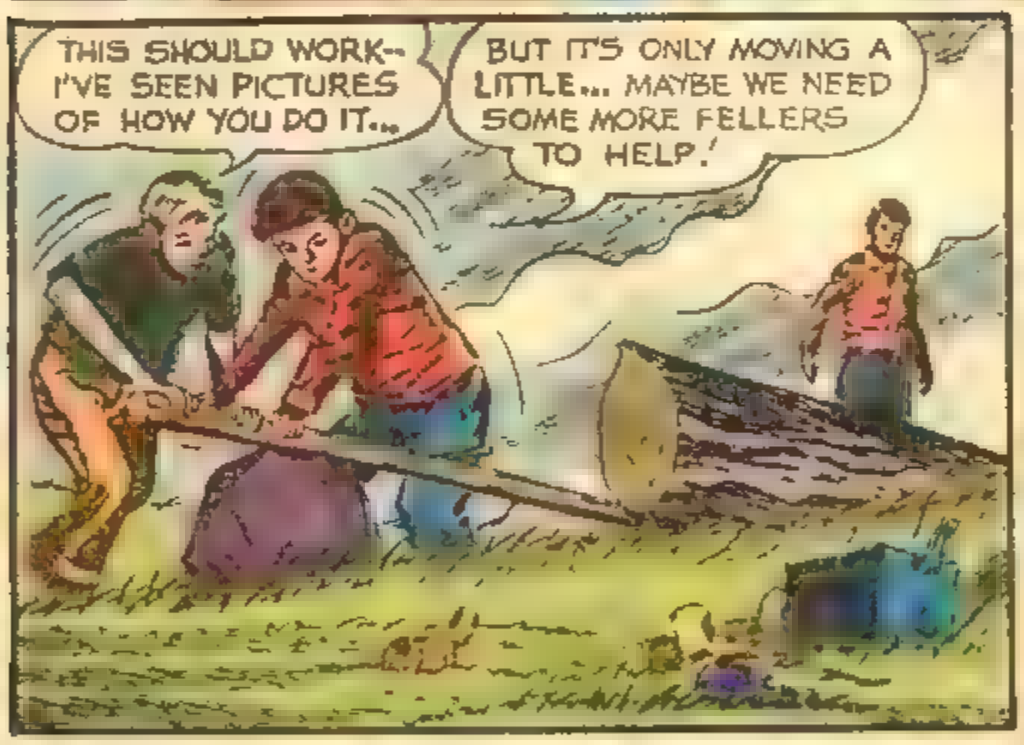
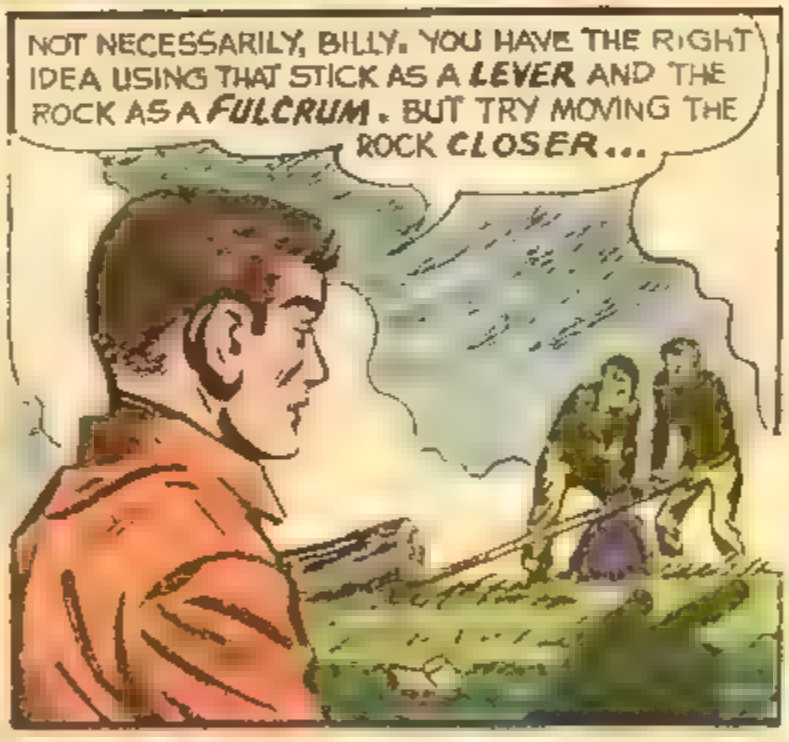
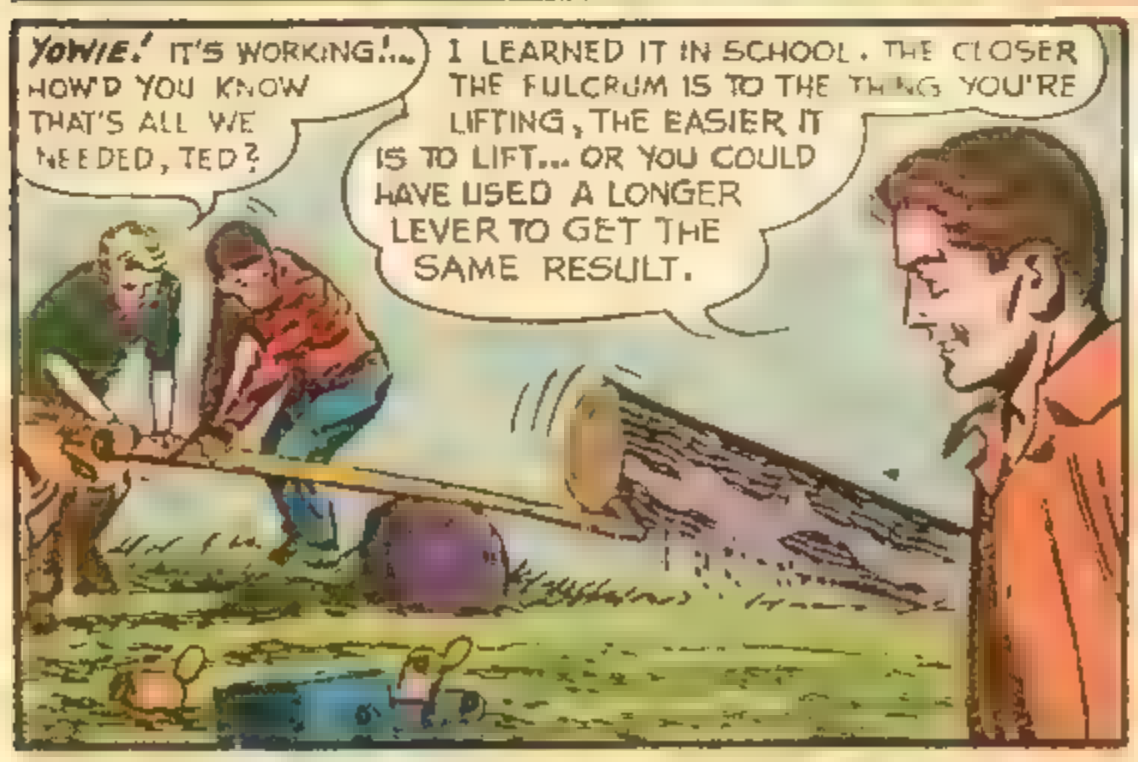
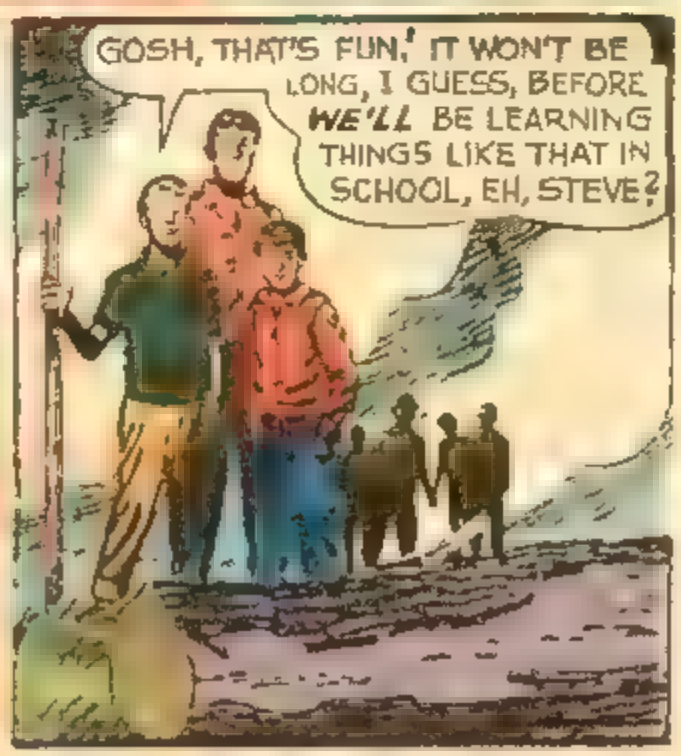





NOT NECESSARILY, BILLY. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA USING THAT STICK AS A LEVER AND THE ROCK AS A FULCRUM. BUT TRY MOVING THE ROCK CLOSER...


YOWIE! IT'S WORKING!... HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT'S ALL WE NEEDED, TED?
I LEARNED IT IN SCHOOL. THE CLOSER THE FULCRUM IS TO THE THING YOU'RE LIFTING, THE EASIER IT IS TO LIFT... OR YOU COULD HAVE USED A LONGER LEVER TO GET THE SAME RESULT.



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JAIL JESTS

PRISON BARBER

HOW ABOUT A SHAVE, TOO?

SURE. WHY NOT?

SORRY!

YEOW

TAKE IT EASY!

AND..

SOME BARBER!

7212

I NEVER SAW YOU GIVE SUCH A BAD SHAVE BEFORE! WHAT HAPPENED?

7212

HE WAS ONE OF THE WITNESSES AT MY TRIAL, WHO HELPED SEND ME HERE TO JAIL!

2411

7212

END

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT BRUCE WAYNE VOWED TO FIGHT CRIME BECAUSE HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BY A CRIMINAL WHEN HE WAS YOUNG. BUT WHAT IF THAT HAD ***NEVER*** HAPPENED? WHAT THEN? WOULD BRUCE HAVE BECOME A ***BATMAN*** ANYWAY? NOW YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN YOU READ THE STRANGE STORY OF...

THE SECOND LIFE OF BATMAN

LOOK! THE TWO MEN FIGHTING-- THEY'RE ***BOTH*** WEARING ***BAT COSTUMES!***

YES--BUT WHICH ONE IS THE CRIMINAL WE ARE AFTER-- AND WHICH ONE IS THE ***BLUE BAT?***

ONE NIGHT IN THE MANSION OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD DICK GRAYSON -- AND ARE SECRETLY ***BATMAN*** AND ***ROBIN***...

BRUCE, I WONDER WHY YOUR OLD FRIEND PROF. NICHOLS WANTS US TO VISIT HIM TONIGHT?

HE PROBABLY HAS A NEW INVENTION TO SHOW US. I WONDER WHAT IT WILL BE THIS TIME?

LATER, IN PROF NICHOLS LABORATORY...

BRUCE HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT PATH YOUR LIFE ***MIGHT*** HAVE TAKEN--IF YOU WERE ***NOT*** AFFECTED BY SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO YOU WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT MANY TIMES-- BUT I'LL NEVER KNOW.

BUT YOU *WILL* KNOW--RIGHT NOW! PUT THIS ON AND CONCENTRATE--THINK OF THE EVENT THAT INFLUENCED YOUR LIFE--THINK THAT IT *NEVER HAPPENED*--AND MY INVENTION WILL REVEAL TO YOUR MIND'S EYE THE LIFE YOU *MIGHT* HAVE HAD!

I DECIDED TO BECOME A CRIME-FIGHTER WHEN I WAS A YOUNGSTER--WHEN I SAW MY PARENTS SHOT BY A CRIMINAL. BUT WHAT IF THAT HAD *NEVER* HAPPENED...?

ABRUPTLY, THE PAST LOOMS BEFORE BRUCE--THE PAST *THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN...*

...DEPICTING BRUCE AS A YOUNG MAN, RECEIVING FRIENDS IN HIS HOME...

BRUCE, I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE AT THE COSTUME BALL TO HONOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW METROPOLIS AIRPORT! WE'RE ALL TO WEAR COSTUMES THAT REPRESENT FLYING CREATURES!

I KNOW! AND WON'T YOU BE SURPRISED WHEN YOU SEE *MY* COSTUME!

NEXT NIGHT, AT THE UNIQUE BALL GIVEN AT THE AIRPORT..

BRUCE HASN'T ARRIVED YET! I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FLYING CREATURE HE'S COMING AS?

SUDDENLY...

HOLD IT EVERYBODY! JUST GIVE YOUR MONEY AND YOUR JEWELS TO MY MEN AND NOBODY WILL GET HURT!

OHH--IT'S THE *BLUE BAT*, THE CRIMINAL WHO'S BECOME THE HEAD OF THE UNDERWORLD!

LOOK--HERE'S BRUCE WAYNE--AS *SUPERMAN!* WELL, *SUPERMAN DOES* FLY! HA, HA!

I THINK IT'S A DISGRACE THAT A FRIVOLOUS PERSON LIKE BRUCE SHOULD COME AS *SUPERMAN!* EVER SINCE BRUCE'S PARENTS DIED IN THE AUTO CRASH LAST YEAR, HE'S DONE NOTHING BUT IDLE IN NIGHT CLUBS!

THIS THEN MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE ORIGIN OF THE BAT-COSTUME--A DISGUISE TO HIDE THE SECRET IDENTITY OF A *CRIMINAL!*

ABRUPTLY, A HERCULEAN FIGURE FLASHES DOWN...

GOOD THING I HAPPENED TO BE OVER-HEAD AND SAW WHAT WAS HAPPENING!

THE REAL SUPERMAN!

AS SUPERMAN SNATCHES THE GUNMEN...

GREAT SCOTT! THE BLUE BAT STARTED THE PLANE--AND SENT IT STRAIGHT AT THE CROWD!

INSTANTLY, THE MAN OF STEEL STREAKS FORWARD...

GOT TO PULL IT AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE I CAN STOP THE MOTORS!

THOSE GUNMEN WILL ESCAPE WHILE SUPERMAN'S BUSY! SOMEBODY SHOULD STOP THEM!

WHY DON'T YOU, BRUCE? YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE A SUPERMAN--WHY DON'T YOU ACT LIKE ONE?

STUNG BY THE TAUNT, BRUCE IMPETUOUSLY LEAPS INTO ACTION!

ALL RIGHT--I WILL!

BRUCE--DON'T! I WAS ONLY KIDDING!

WOW! LOOK AT THAT! HE'S GOOD!

HE SHOULD BE--HE WAS TOP ATHLETE IN COLLEGE!

FISTS THAT WON HIM THE INTERCOLLEGIATE BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP NOW BRING ANOTHER VICTORY...

AND SHORTLY...

NICE WORK, BRUCE!

TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T CAPTURE THE BLUE BAT, TOO--BUT IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT HE ESCAPED!

I AGREE! YOU'RE THE BEST SUBSTITUTE SUPERMAN I EVER SAW!

LET ME HAVE A SHOT OF BOTH OF YOU TOGETHER!

WAIT'LL THE PUBLIC READS HOW PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE BECAME A HERO!

NEXT EVENING, AS BRUCE WAYNE REACHES HIS HOME, STILL MOVED BY AN EMOTION THAT IS STRANGE TO HIM ...

IT'S A GOOD FEELING TO KNOW I'VE DONE SOMETHING WORTH-WHILE FOR A CHANGE!

SUDDENLY...

SO THIS IS THE GUY WHO PLAYED SUPERMAN, EH?

CAUGHT OFF-GUARD BY THE UNEXPECTED BLOW, BRUCE DROPS, MOMENTARILY DAZED...

THAT'S ONLY A SAMPLE OF WHAT YOU'LL GET IF YOU POKE YOUR NOSE INTO MY ACTIVITIES AGAIN!

I--I NEVER MEANT TO INTERFERE-- BUT MY FRIENDS STARTED KIDDING ME! I-- I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT...

THIS GUY WON'T BOTHER US, BOSS! HE'S SCARED!

YOU'RE RIGHT! IMAGINE ME THINKING HE WAS GOING TO BOTHER US! :HA, HA!:

AS BRUCE WATCHES THE CRIMINALS LEAVE, HE GLOWERS WITH RAGE...

"SCARED," EH? IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY I COULD FIND THE **BLUE BAT'S** HIDEOUT, I'D BREAK UP HIS MOB -- SINGLE-HANDED.

SUDDENLY, BRUCE REMEMBERS SOMETHING...

WHEN ONE OF THOSE THUGS WALKED AWAY, SOME SAND SPILLED OUT OF HIS TROUSER CUFF!

FINE SAND MIXED WITH COARSE GRAVEL! MOST BEACHES AROUND HERE HAVE FINE SAND ONLY! THIS MIXTURE MIGHT HAVE COME FROM **ROCKY POINT**, WHERE THERE ARE HIGH BREAKERS! HMM!

FEELING HIS WAR WITH THE **BLUE BAT** HAS NOW BECOME A PERSONAL MATTER, BRUCE RUSHES TO HIS GARAGE...

I'LL REMOVE THIS SPECIAL COUNTRY CLUB INSIGNIA WHICH WOULD QUICKLY IDENTIFY ME! I WANT TO HANDLE THE **BLUE BAT** MYSELF -- BUT I DON'T WANT ANY PUBLICITY AGAIN!

THEN AFTER A QUICK RIDE TO **ROCKY POINT**, HE SPOTS AN OLD SHED...

EMPTY! BUT THERE'S A SPARE **BLUE BAT** COSTUME! THIS IS THE MOB'S HIDEOUT! BUT WHERE ARE THEY?

GLANCING ABOUT FOR A CLUE, BRUCE FINDS...

A DRAWING -- OF THE INTERIOR OF THE NEW DAM BEING BUILT OUTSIDE TOWN! THEY MUST BE PLANNING TO ROB THE HUGE PAYROLL!

HMM! I'VE AN IDEA THIS COSTUME MAY COME IN HANDY -- IF **I WEAR IT!**

GARBED AS THE **BLUE BAT**, BRUCE SPEEDS ALONG THE HIGHWAY WHEN HE SPOTS...

HIGHWAY POLICE! I THINK **I'LL LET THEM SEE ME IN THIS COSTUME!**

LOOK -- THE **BLUE BAT!** **AFTER HIM!**

IT WORKED! THEY'RE FOLLOWING ME AS I HOPED! NOW I'LL PUT ON SOME SPEED -- SO THEY CAN'T CATCH UP TO ME UNTIL **AFTER** I REACH THE **BLUE BAT!**

REACHING THE DAM, BRUCE RACES INTO THE GENERATOR ROOM AND SIGHTS HIS QUARRY...

THEY'RE CROSSING OVER THE GENERATORS -- SO THEY WON'T BE SEEN WHEN THEY COME DOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE TO THE PAYROLL ROOM! HMM -- I'VE AN IDEA THAT MAY JUST WORK...

DARTING UP THE STAIRS, THE DISGUISED BRUCE SUDDENLY CONFRONTS THE ONCOMING BANDITS...

HOLD IT, YOU TWO! THAT GUY BEHIND YOU IS PLAYING YOU FOR A CHUMP! HE'S A COP -- LEADING YOU INTO A TRAP! **I'M THE REAL BLUE BAT!**

YOU FOOLS! DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! HE'S TRYING TO TRICK YOU! **I'M THE REAL BLUE BAT!**

HOW CAN WE TELL? BOTH OF YOU LOOK LIKE TWINS!

HEARING APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS, BRUCE MAKES HIS MOVE!

THE POLICE HAVE ARRIVED! I'VE STALLED THE **BLUE BAT'S** MEN LONG ENOUGH!

SIGHTING THE POLICE, THE WILY **BLUE BAT** RACES PAST BRUCE...

I'LL BE CAPTURED UNLESS I CAN REACH THAT OTHER GENERATOR TO PULL MY SURPRISE!

FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT, THE **BLUE BAT** REACHES INTO HIS SATCHEL AND THEN SHOUTS...

I'VE GOT DYNAMITE HERE! DROP YOUR GUNS OR I'LL TOSS IT AT A GENERATOR AND BLOW UP THIS WHOLE PLACE! YOU'VE GOT TWO MINUTES TO DECIDE!

I CAN'T LET THE **BLUE BAT** ESCAPE NOW--NOT AFTER ALL I WENT THROUGH TO FIND HIM!

UNNOTICED, BRUCE SLIPS OVER THE SIDE OF THE GENERATOR, AND...

THESE RUNGS ARE SPACED SO CLOSELY TOGETHER, HE CAN'T SEE ME UNDER THEM!

TWO MINUTES PASS -- AND, SUDDENLY, A HAND WHIPS OVER THE **BLUE BAT'S** SHOULDER AND CLAMPS ON HIS WRIST!

TIMES UP-- AND YOU'RE **OUT!**

AS BRUCE'S KNOTTED FIST THUDS AGAINST THE **BLUE BAT'S** JAW...

GREAT SCOTT! THE DYNAMITE-- IT **DROPPED** BEFORE I COULD GRAB IT!

WITH A DESPERATE DIVE, BRUCE MAKES A STABBING REACH FOR THE DEADLY EXPLOSIVE...

PHEW! FOR A MINUTE, I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE MY NEXT BIRTHDAY!

THEN, HIS PERSONAL FEUD FINISHED, THE DISGUISED BRUCE RACES AWAY BEFORE THE POLICE CAN QUESTION HIM...

WHOEVER THAT **BAT-MAN** IS, MY HAT'S OFF TO HIM!

SO'S MINE! A CRIME-FIGHTER LIKE THAT COULD BE A GREAT HELP TO THE POLICE FORCE! I HOPE WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF THAT **BAT-MAN!**

LATER, IN HIS HOME, BRUCE REALIZES THAT DESTINY HAS CHOSEN A CAREER FOR HIM...

I'LL DEVOTE MY LIFE TO FIGHTING CRIMINALS! THIS COSTUME THAT WAS ONCE A SYMBOL OF CRIME WILL NOW BECOME A SYMBOL OF **JUSTICE!** AS FOR A NAME, I'LL CALL MYSELF WHAT THOSE POLICEMEN CALLED ME--**BATMAN!**

THEN THE PAST **THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN** FADES--AND THE BRUCE OF TODAY STARES THOUGHTFULLY INTO SPACE...

WELL--DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH NOW? WHAT DID YOU SEE?

I--I SAW THAT ALTHOUGH THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE ALTERED, DESTINY WOULD HAVE STILL CHOSEN THE SAME LIFE FOR ME!

LATER, AFTER LEAVING PROF. NICHOLS, BRUCE TELLS DICK WHAT HE SAW...

GOLLY--SO EVEN IF YOUR PARENTS WEREN'T KILLED BY A CRIMINAL, YOU'D HAVE BECOME A CRIME-FIGHTER ANYWAY!

YES, DICK--THAT'S THE WAY IT WOULD BE! THERE'D ALWAYS BE A **BATMAN!**

THE END

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IT ISN'T THAT, SARGE — HE TAKES CAMERAS!

THE END

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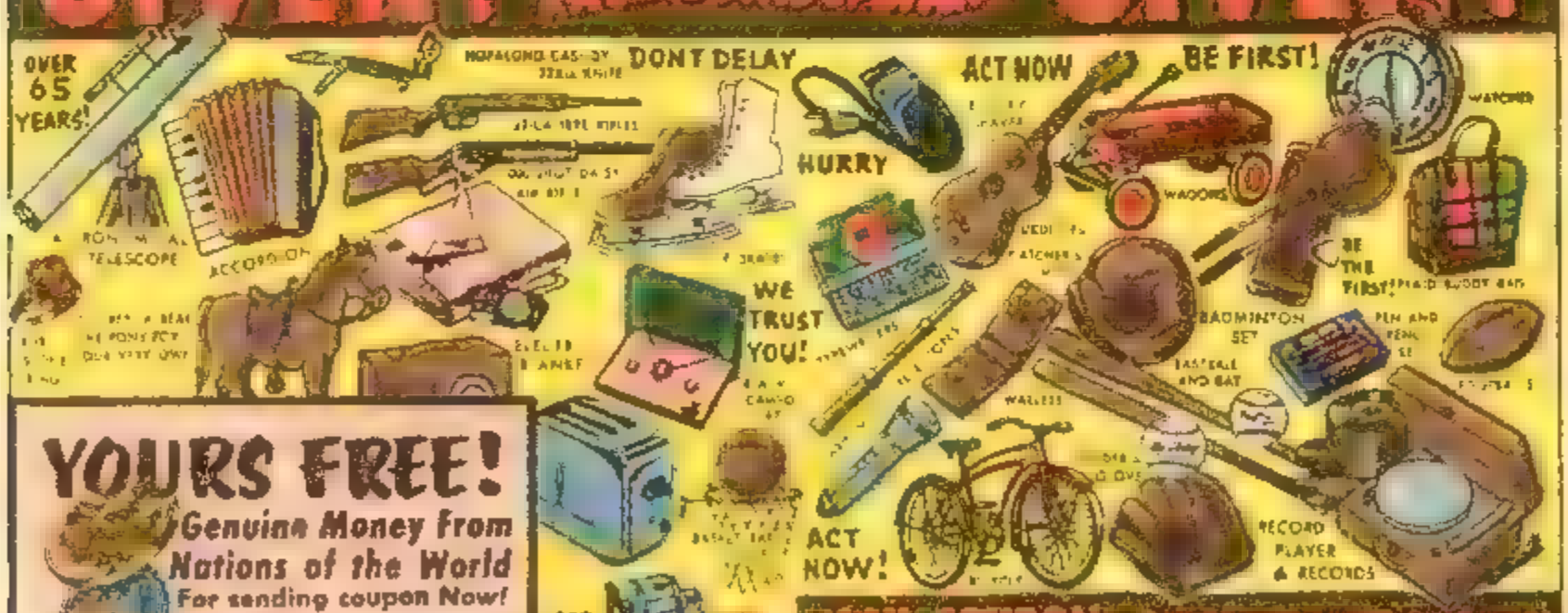

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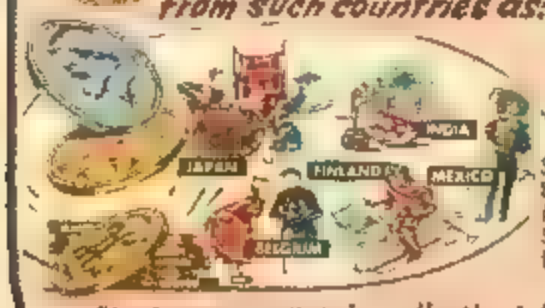

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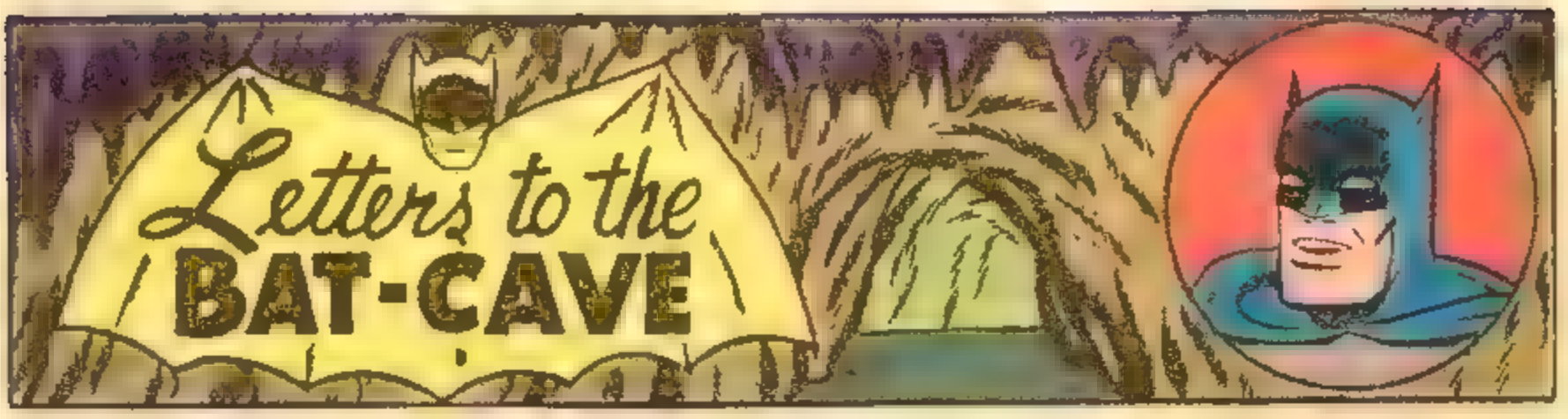

Dear Editor:

Could you give me a description of the BAT-CAVE? Also, I was wondering if anyone, besides BATMAN and ROBIN, and SUPERMAN know the BAT-CAVE'S location?

Seymour Simms, Gary, Ind.

(The BAT-CAVE houses the BATMOBILE and the BAT-PLANE. In addition, it is where BATMAN and ROBIN have their workshop, their crime detection laboratory, and their Hall of Trophies, where they keep mementos of past cases. Only Alfred, Bruce Wayne's trusted butler, knows how to get in and out of the BAT-CAVE. —Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor:

I got a great kick out of "THE CREATURE FROM PLANET X", which appeared in the August issue of DETECTIVE COMICS. Are you planning any more stories in which BATMAN and ROBIN have to fight an alien being?

Kenny Dunn, Newark, N. J.

(You'll be seeing just such a story in the October issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 272, where BATMAN and ROBIN are faced with "THE MENACE OF THE CRYSTAL CREATURE". —Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor:

How come BATMAN and ROBIN take orders from Commissioner Gordon? Being such great crime-fighters, wouldn't they be better off strictly on their own?

Art Winkler, Richmond, Va.

(BATMAN and ROBIN don't actually "take orders" from the Police Commissioner. As deputy officers, however, they do not believe in taking the law into their own hands. By cooperating and working hand-in-hand with the police, they are able to do a much more effective job of fighting crime and capturing gangsters. —Ed.)

Dear Editor:

Doesn't ROBIN have to go to school? If not, how does he get his education?

Ellie Ganz, Springfield, Ill.

(ROBIN certainly does go to school, in his everyday identity of Dick Grayson. As a matter of fact, BATMAN wouldn't take ROBIN along with him on a case if The Boy Wonder fell behind in his studies or didn't maintain good grades. —Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor:

I know that BATMAN, ROBIN and SUPERMAN are the best of friends, and always work together as a perfect team. Did they ever fight one another, or have any sort of misunderstanding?

Michael Ritter, Tacoma, Wash.

(There have been past situations in which BATMAN and SUPERMAN were forced to work at odds with each other until a particular problem was solved. Just such a problem develops in the next issue of WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, November, No. 105, when BATMAN and ROBIN have to battle "THE ALIEN SUPERMAN". —Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor:

One of the weapons in BATMAN'S UTILITY BELT is a sleeping gas pellet that he sometimes uses against crooks. What chemicals are used in these pellets? Aren't they dangerous to use, especially when innocent bystanders are around?

Bennie Gould, Detroit, Mich.

(Practically all of BATMAN'S chemical weapons are devised by BATMAN and ROBIN themselves, in the crime laboratory of the BAT-CAVE. They consist of secret formulas known only to the caped crime-busters, and are not used until BATMAN is certain that their effects are only temporary and that they are perfectly harmless to the human body. —Ed)

BATMAN AND ROBIN

HE FIRST APPEARED IN A THUNDERSTORM--AND, WHEN HE SPOKE, HIS VOICE WAS LIKE THUNDER, FOR HE PROCLAIMED HIMSELF TO BE **THOR**... **THE THUNDER-GOD!** YET, **THOR** EXISTED ONLY IN MYTHOLOGY--SO WHO WAS THIS FANTASTIC FIGURE WHO STALKED THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY? **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** LEARNED THE SURPRISING ANSWER WHEN THEY FINALLY SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF..

THE HAMMER OF THOR

RASH MORTALS! HOW DARE YOU INTRUDE WHEN THE GODS SPEAK TOGETHER? NOW YOU SHALL FEEL THE WRATH OF **THOR!**

BOB KANE

LIGHTNING SLASHES A SULLEN NIGHT SKY AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** PATROL THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY IN THE **BATMOBILE**...

QUITE A THUNDERSTORM TONIGHT, **ROBIN**...

BATMAN--OVER THERE! DO **YOU** SEE WHAT **I** SEE?

BOOM

WHY--HE'S DRESSED LIKE AN ANCIENT NORSEMAN!

NATIONAL BANK OF

HE'S **BIG**, ISN'T HE? AND, GOSH, LOOK AT THE WAY HE **GLOWS!**

BUT AS THEY WARILY APPROACH...

STAND ASIDE, RASH MORTALS--FOR I AM **THOR**--**THE THUNDER-GOD!** BEWARE MY THUNDERBOLT HAMMER!

W-WHAT...?

A MIGHTY ARM HURLS THE HAMMER--AND, LIKE A THUNDERBOLT, IT BURSTS OPEN THE BANK'S STEEL DOORS!

NATIONAL BA

THEN, MAGICALLY, THE HAMMER RETURNS TO THE GIANT'S HAND!

BATMAN--IT FLEW BACK TO HIS HAND! D-DID YOU SEE?

I SEE A CROOK--TRYING TO TRICK US WITH SOME GIMMICKED-UP HAMMER! LET'S GRAB HIM! YOU TACKLE HIM LOW--I'LL HIT HIM HIGH!

UGH--IT'S LIKE SLAMMING INTO A STONE WALL.

MY PUNCH--IT DIDN'T EVEN SHAKE HIM!

BEFORE **BATMAN** CAN DUCK, A MASSIVE PALM SWIPES HIS CHEEK..

...WHILE THE OTHER HAND CONTEMPTUOUSLY FLINGS **ROBIN** ASIDE LIKE A RAG DOLL!

PUNY MORTALS.

N MOTES LATER, WHEN THE DAZED CRIME-FIGHTERS REGAIN THEIR FEET...

LOOK--THERE HE GOES--WITH A SACK OF THE BANK'S MONEY!

QUICK--TO THE BATMOBILE! WE'VE GOT TO OVERTAKE HIM!

BUT AS THE BATMOBILE RACES IN PURSUIT THE HERCULEAN FIGURE TURNS AND...

BATMAN--HE'S THROWING HIS HAMMER AGAIN!

FOOLISH MORTALS! I WILL BE MERCIFUL AND NOT DESTROY YOU WITH MY THUNDERBOLT--BUT LET THIS BE A WARNING!

JUST IN TIME, BATMAN SLAMS ON THE BRAKES AS THE LAMPPOST TOPPLES...

SCRE-ECH

CRASH!

HAVING HALTED THE CRIME-FIGHTERS, THE MIGHTY FIGURE DISAPPEARS IN THE NIGHT...

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THOR WAS PART OF MYTHOLOGY BUT AFTER WHAT I SAW TONIGHT--

NO ROBIN--I WON'T BELIEVE IT! IT CAN'T BE TRUE--IT CAN'T!

NEXT MORNING, NEWSPAPERS HEADLINE THE FANTASTIC EVENT...

GOTHAM GAZETTE

HAS THOR COME TO LIFE?

IF THOR IS A MYTH, HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN HIS THUNDERBOLT HAMMER AND THE FACT THAT IT RETURNED TO HIS HAND, JUST AS TOLD IN THE STORIES OF THOR?

BATMAN'S

WHILE IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN MEET A MAN WITH A STRANGE STORY...

BATMAN--THIS IS MR. HENRY MEKE! HE SAW THE DRAWING OF THE HAMMER--AND RECOGNIZED IT AS THE ONE STOLEN FROM HIM!

I RUN A SMALL MUSEUM OF REPLICAS OF MYTHOLOGICAL CURIOS! THIS MORNING I NOTICED THE HAMMER WAS MISSING FROM MY EXHIBIT!

LATER, IN MEKE'S UNIQUE, LITTLE MUSEUM...

FOR A SMALL ADMISSION PRICE, PEOPLE SEE WHAT IS SUPPOSEDLY ROBIN HOOD'S LONGBOW-- ALEXANDER'S SWORD THAT CUT THE GORDIAN KNOT-- MERLIN'S MAGIC HAT--AND SO ON!

AND THIS IS WHERE THE *HAMMER* HUNG?

YES--IT WAS MY PRIZE EXHIBIT!

THE HAMMER OF THOR

TWO NIGHTS PASS, AS THE STRANGE MYSTERY DEEPENS, AND THE CRIME-FIGHTERS KEEP THEIR VIGIL...

NO SIGN OF *THOR* YET!

THE LAST TWO NIGHTS WERE CLEAR! REMEMBER--*THOR* WAS THE *THUNDER GOD!* I'VE A HUNCH HE'LL RE-APPEAR WHEN THERE'S A THUNDER-STORM--LIKE *TONIGHT!*

RUMBLE

BATMAN, DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT IT REALLY *COULD* BE THE *HAMMER* OF *THOR*--LOST FOR CENTURIES-- AND NOW *THOR* HAS RETURNED TO CLAIM IT?

NEARBY, TWO SAFECRACKERS ARE AT WORK INSIDE A PLANT THAT MANUFACTURES ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT WHEN ABRUPTLY...

WICKED MORTALS, HOW DARE YOU TAKE THE WEALTH THAT RIGHTLY BELONGS TO *THOR?*

HUH? IT'S THAT GUY WE READ ABOUT IN THE PAPERS! *PLUG HIM!*

FOOLS--TO DEFY THE POWER OF *THOR!*

BAM

HEARING THE SHOT, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** SWIFTLY INVESTIGATE...

IT'S **THOR** AGAIN! HE MUST HAVE SURPRISED THOSE CROOKS -- KNOCKED THEM OUT -- AND NOW **HE'S** EMPTYING THE SAFE!

WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM, **ROBIN** -- OR AT LEAST **TRY!**

BEFORE **THOR** CAN ACT, **BATMAN** FLIPS COILS OF COPPER TUBING OVER HIM...

MAYBE THIS WILL PINION HIS ARMS LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO THINK OF A WAY OF SUBDUING HIM!

BUT AS **THOR'S** POWERFUL MUSCLES SNAP THE TUBING LIKE STRAW...

ONLY ONE CHANCE NOW -- START THE OVERHEAD TROLLEY SO THAT THE MACHINE WILL SLAM INTO HIM! BECAUSE OF **THOR'S** TREMENDOUS STRENGTH, IT WON'T HURT HIM -- BUT IT MAY KNOCK HIM OUT!

MY **THUNDERBOLT** WILL DESTROY THAT WHICH THREATENS **THOR!**

GREAT SCOTT! THE **HAMMER** WILL SMASH THE OVERHEAD TROLLEY -- AND THOSE CROOKS ARE LYING RIGHT UNDER THAT MACHINE!

EVEN AS THE HAMMER SMASHES THE TROLLEY, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** DIVE FORWARD...

CRASH!

THOR'S GONE! NO USE TRYING TO CHASE AFTER HIM! LET'S TURN THESE THUGS OVER TO THE POLICE!

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...

THE WEATHER MAN PREDICTS ANOTHER THUNDERSTORM TONIGHT-- AND THAT MEANS *THOR* AGAIN! MR. MEKE, THINK BACK WHEN YOU LAST SAW THAT HAMMER! MAYBE YOU CAN REMEMBER SOMETHING THAT MIGHT GIVE US A CLUE!

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO THINK ... HMM. I *DO* REMEMBER SOMETHING. YES... I REMEMBER NOW...

'T WAS THUNDER NG THAT NIGHT-- AND I REMEMBER SEE NG SOMETHING HURTL NG THROUGH THE W.NDOW ..

A METEORITE-- IT HIT THE HEAD OF THE HAMMER -- AND EXPLODED!

"THEN I NOTICED SOMETHING CURIOUS -- THE HAMMER WAS GLOWING WEIRDLY..."

THAT METEORITE -- IT CAUSED THE HAMMER TO *GLOW!* I WONDER WHY? I MUST EXAMINE IT...

SO YOU REACHED FOR THE HAMMER, AND THEN.?

I--I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AFTER THAT. LISTEN -- IT'S STARTING TO THUNDER! LOOK-- LIGHTNING...

RUMBLE

MR. MEKE -- WHAT'S WRONG? *BATMAN*-- LOOK AT HIS EYES! IT'S -- IT'S AS IF HE'S *HYPNOTIZED!*

WAIT *ROBIN*-- LEAVE HIM ALONE. LET'S WATCH HIM! THIS MAY BE THE ANSWER TO THE WHOLE MYSTERY!

AS IF IN A TRANCE, THE MAN OPENS A TRAP DOOR AND...

BATMAN-- LOOK! IT'S THE STOLEN MONEY-- AND *THOR'S HAMMER!*

YES -- AND NOW MEKE IS STARTING TO TAKE OUT THE *THOR* COSTUME! BUT HE *CAN'T* BE *THOR*-- NOT THAT THIN, LITTLE MAN...

BUT, NO SOONER DOES MEKE TOUCH THE GLOWING HAMMER THAN HE UNDERGOES A FANTASTIC TRANSFORMATION!

GREAT SCOTT, IT'S INCREDIBLE. HE'S STARTING TO *GROW! HE'S BECOMING THOR!*

THEN AT THE SOUND OF A LOUD CRASH OF THUNDER, THE TRANSFORMED MAN LOOKS UP..

I HEAR YOUR VOICE, O MIGHTY ODIN! I OBEY YOU! I GO NOW TO FIND MORE WEALTH WITH WHICH TO BUILD A TEMPLE TO YOUR MEMORY!

HE THINKS THAT THUNDER IS THE VOICE OF ODIN!

CKA-SH!

SUDDENLY...

RASH MORTALS! HOW DARE YOU INTRUDE WHEN THE GODS SPEAK TOGETHER? NOW YOU SHALL FEEL THE WRATH OF THOR!

ROBIN!

INSTANTLY, BATMAN SNATCHES A SHIELD AND HURLS IT WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH!

IT DIDN'T HURT HIM -- BUT IT KNOCKED HIM OFF-BALANCE SO THAT HE MISSED ROBIN!

WITH A BELLOW OF RAGE, THOR SPRINGS AT BATMAN!

MORTAL -- YOU DARED STRIKE THOR -- THE THUNDER GOD!

THEN AS A MIGHTY ARM RAISES THE GREAT HAMMER OF DESTRUCTION ...

NO MORTAL MAY STRIKE THOR AND LIVE! MY THUNDERBOLT WILL AVENGE ME!

HE'S GOING TO THROW THE HAMMER! THIS FUSE BOX -- BEHIND ME...

AS THE HAMMER HURTLES AT HIM, BATMAN SUDDENLY DODGES! IT SMASHES INTO THE FUSE BOX, THERE IS A CRACKLE OF ELECTRICITY...

CRASH ZZZZZZ

THE HAMMER DROPS--ITS GLOW AND EERIE FORCE GONE FOREVER...

JUST WHAT I THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN--THE ELECTRIC CURRENT SHORT-CIRCUITED THE MAGNETIC POWER OF THE HAMMER!

LATER, AFTER **BATMAN** TELLS MEKE WHAT OCCURRED...

IN ITS LONG JOURNEY THROUGH SPACE, COSMIC FORCES GAVE THE METEORITE STRANGE POWERS THAT IT TRANSMITTED TO THE HAMMER--AND THE HAMMER TO YOU! THAT'S WHY THE HAMMER ALWAYS RETURNED ONLY TO YOU!

AND BECAUSE IT BEGAN IN A *THUNDER-STORM*, I THOUGHT I WAS THE *THUNDER-GOD*!

BATMAN--LOOK! MEKE IS SHRINKING BACK TO HIS NORMAL SIZE!

YES--BY HOLDING THE HAMMER, HE GOT HIS POWERS--AND NOW THAT THE HAMMER'S POWER IS GONE, HE'S BECOMING HIMSELF AGAIN!

EXACTLY! EVERY TIME IT THUNDERED, YOU THOUGHT THE THUNDER WAS SPEAKING TO YOU! AND, LIKE A MAN UNDER HYPNOSIS, YOU NEVER REMEMBERED WHAT YOU DID UNDER ITS INFLUENCE!

OH, **BATMAN**, HOW CAN I EVER PAY FOR THE DAMAGE I DID WITH THIS HAMMER?

THERE WAS A BIG REWARD FOR THOSE SAFE-CRACKERS YOU CAUGHT AS *THOR*, SO THE REWARD WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT! EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT NOW!

NEXT DAY, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** MAKE A RETURN VISIT TO THE MUSEUM...

BATMAN, ALL THE NEWSPAPER STORIES HAVE BROUGHT A CROWD TO MY MUSEUM! EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE THE *HAMMER*! MY LITTLE MUSEUM WILL PROSPER!

YES--THE *HAMMER* OF *THOR* STILL HAS POWER--THE POWER TO INTEREST PEOPLE--AND THAT'S THE BEST KIND OF POWER!

MUSEUM

THE END

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"The Muscle Builder"
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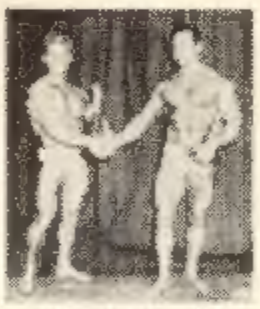

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AMAZING FREE TRIAL OFFER!

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LET ME PROVE TO YOU AT MY OWN EXPENSE THAT EVERYTHING I SAY CAN BE DONE!

FREE MUSCLE BUILDING TRIAL OFFER. Fill out coupon and mail to me. I'll rush you my Giant 48-page course, filled with exercises, training secrets, heroic photos of the mighty champions and private advice on how you can become a muscle star fast! A-C-T-I-O-N Is The Key To Strength. Make your first he-man decision to-day. Rush in this coupon for your free trial course. You have nothing to lose but your weakness.

MY FREE TRIAL OFFER IS NOW YOURS AS A FREE GIFT! NO OBLIGATION ON YOUR PART... JUST RUSH ME THIS COUPON NOW.

MAIL COUPON FOR YOUR FREE COURSE

Check here where you want bigger muscles
. . . I'll show you how to put 'em there!

( ) ARMS
( ) NECK
( ) CHEST
( ) WAIST
( ) THIGHS
( ) CALVES

(check the gains you want)

I WANT ☐ Added Weight ☐ Broader Shoulders ☐ Speedier Athletic Legs ☐ More Endurance and Energy

JOE WEIDER Dept. 80-109K
"Trainer of the Champions"
803 Palisade Ave.,
Union City, N. J.

Shoot the works, Joe! Rush me my Free Introductory, Power-Charged, Muscle Building Course. (I enclose only 25 cents to cover cost of handling and mailing) I am under no obligation.

Name.....Age.....
Address.....
City.....Zone....State.....
(Please print name clearly)

CANADIAN RESIDENTS: Send to Above Adress. No Duty Charges Involved.

150 CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS!

EACH GUN BOX CONTAINS:

6	GATLING MACHINE GUNS		
30	CAVALRYMEN		
30	INFANTRYMEN		
18	SHARPSHOOTERS		
18	FIELD CANNON	6	SCOUTS
3	MERRIMAC SHIPS	6	OFFICERS
6	HOSPITAL WAGONS	6	SERGEANTS
6	HOSPITAL NURSES	6	BUGLERS
3	MONITOR SHIPS	6	COAST MORTARS

$1.49

TWO COMPLETE ARMIES—THE BLUES AND THE GREYS! EACH PIECE OF MOLDED PLASTIC, EACH ON ITS OWN BASE MEASURING UP TO 4 INCHES!

JOSELY CO., Dept. W-11B
Carle Place
Long Island, N. Y.

NO C.O.D.'s

HERE'S MY $1.49!

Rush the CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS TO ME!

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State .....

Canadian orders send $1.75 postal money order